5 We Claim:

A compound of general formula (Ic), or a stereoisomer, optical isomer,
 pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof

wherein

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 $R_1$  is phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl, or is a heterocycle, which is a saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic ring containing 5 or 6 ring atoms of which 1, 2 or 3 are identical or different heteroatoms selected from: nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur, and phosphorus, and where the heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl and -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl, OR<sub>11</sub>, halogen, cyano, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub> or SR<sub>11</sub>;

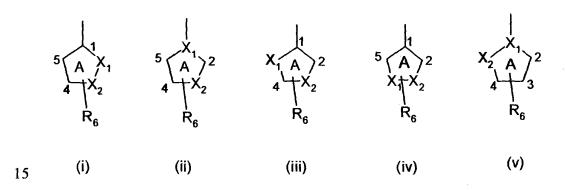
R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are each independently selected from: hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, halogen, OR<sub>11</sub>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylcarbonyloxy, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, carboxyl, cyano and nitro;

Z is O or S;

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A is a 5- or 6- membered ring; wherein:

(I) the 5-membered ring is saturated or unsaturated and represented by any one of the general structures (i) to (v);



wherein  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are each independently selected from: a carbon atom and a heteroatom selected from: oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen, provided that at least one of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  is a heteroatom, and wherein the nitrogen atom is at least monosubstituted by  $R_{13}$ , wherein  $R_{13}$  is selected from: hydrogen, unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl substituted by halogen, hydroxyl or carboxyl,  $C_2$ - $C_6$ -alkenyl, hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylcarbonyl, toluenesulfonyl, cyano,  $SO_2R_{10}$ , –  $CO(CH_2)_mR_{14}$  and phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl; and

R<sub>6</sub> is -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyleneOR<sub>11</sub>:

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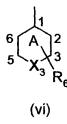
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(II) the 6-membered ring is saturated and of the general structure (vi):

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wherein X<sub>3</sub> is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a nitrogen atom, wherein the nitrogen atom is at least monosubstituted by R<sub>13</sub>, wherein R<sub>13</sub> is selected from: hydrogen, unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, or carboxyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, hydroxyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylcarbonyl, toluenesulfonyl, cyano, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, -CO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>R<sub>14</sub> and phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl and -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl;

R<sub>6</sub> is -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyleneOR<sub>11</sub>;

20 R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> are each independently selected from: hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, carboxamide and sulfonamide; or

R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3-, 4-, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which can have at least one further heteroatom selected from: nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic, and either unsubstituted or substituted by at least one substituent selected from: halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkanoyl, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl and -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl; R<sub>11</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkanoyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl;

- 5 R<sub>14</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, hydroxyl, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, halogen, -SH, or-S-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl; and m is an integer of 0 to 6.
- 2. A compound of the general formula (ld), or a stereoisomer, optical isomer, pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof

### wherein

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 $R_1$  is phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl, or is a heterocycle, which is a saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic ring containing 5 or 6 ring atoms of which 1, 2 or 3 are identical or different heteroatoms selected from: nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur, and phosphorus, and where the heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxycarbonyl and - $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl and -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl, OR<sub>11</sub>, halogen, cyano, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub> or SR<sub>11</sub>;

R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are each independently selected from: hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, halogen, OR<sub>11</sub>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylcarbonyloxy, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, carboxy, cyano and nitro;

A is a 5- or 6- membered ring; wherein:

10 (I) the 5-membered ring is saturated or unsaturated and represented by any one of the general structures (i) to (iv);

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wherein  $X_1$  is either a carbon atom or a heteroatom selected from: oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen, except that in structures (ii) and (iv)  $X_1$  is either a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom, and wherein  $R_{13}$  is selected from: hydrogen, unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl substituted by halogen, hydroxyl or carboxyl,  $C_2$ - $C_6$ -alkenyl, hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylcarbonyl, toluenesulfonyl, cyano,  $SO_2R_{10}$  and –  $CO(CH_2)_mR_{14}$ , phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl and - $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl;

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R<sub>6</sub> is -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyleneOR<sub>11</sub>;

(II) the 6-membered ring is saturated and represented by the general structure (vi):

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wherein  $R_{13}$  is selected from: hydrogen, unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, or carboxyl,  $C_2$ - $C_6$ -alkenyl, hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylcarbonyl, toluenesulfonyl, cyano,  $SO_2R_{10}$ ,  $-CO(CH_2)_mR_{14}$ , and phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl;

15 R<sub>6</sub> is -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyleneOR<sub>11</sub>;

 $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  are each independently selected from: hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylcarbonyl, carboxamide and sulfonamide; or

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 $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3-, 4-, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which can have at least one further heteroatom selected from: nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic and either unsubstituted or substituted by at least one substituent selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy,  $C_2$ - $C_6$ -alkenyl,  $C_3$ - $C_6$ -alkynyl,  $C_2$ - $C_4$ -alkanoyl, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl;

R<sub>11</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkanoyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl;

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 $R_{14}$  is hydrogen  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl, hydroxyl, -NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, halogen, -SH, or-S- $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl; and m is an integer of 0 to 6 .

3. A compound of the general formula (le), or a stereoisomer, optical isomer, pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof

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wherein

 $R_1$  is phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl, or is a heterocycle, which is a saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic ring containing 6 ring atoms of which 1, 2 or 3 are identical or different heteroatoms selected from: nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, and where the heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl;

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are hydrogen;

25 R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are each independently selected from: hydroxyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylcarbonyloxy;

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A is a 5- or 6- membered ring; wherein:

(I) the 5-membered ring is saturated or unsaturated and represented by any one of the general structures (i) to (iv);

wherein  $X_1$  is either a carbon atom or a heteroatom selected from: oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen, except that in structures (ii) and (iv)  $X_1$  is either a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom, and wherein  $R_{13}$  is selected from: hydrogen, unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, or carboxyl,  $C_2$ - $C_6$ -alkenyl, hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylcarbonyl, toluenesulfonyl, cyano,  $SO_2R_{10}$ , –  $CO(CH_2)_mR_{14}$  and phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl;

R<sub>6</sub> is -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyleneOR<sub>11</sub>;

25 (II) the 6-membered ring is saturated and of the general structure (vi):

wherein R<sub>13</sub> is selected from: hydrogen, unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, or carboxyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, hydroxyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylcarbonyl, toluenesulfonyl, cyano, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>,—CO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>R<sub>14</sub>, and phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl and -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl;

R<sub>6</sub> is -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyleneOR<sub>11</sub>;

R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> are each independently selected from: hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkanoyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylcarbonyl, carboxamide and sulfonamide; or

R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3-, 4-, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which can have at least one further heteroatom selected from: nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic and either unsubstituted or substituted by at least one substituent selected from: halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkanoyl, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl and -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl;

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 $R_{11}$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkanoyl, or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl;

 $R_{14}$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl, hydroxyl, -  $NR_9R_{10}$ , halogen, -SH, or-S-  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl; and

m is an integer of 0 to 6.

4. A compound of the general formula (If), or a stereoisomer, optical isomer, pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof

$$R_4$$
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_6$ 
 $R_{13}$ 
(If)

wherein

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 $R_1$  is phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl, or is a heterocycle, which is a saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic ring containing 6 ring atoms of which 1, 2 or 3 are identical or different heteroatoms selected from: nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, and where the heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl;

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are hydrogen;

20 R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are each independently selected from: hydroxyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylcarbonyloxy;

R<sub>6</sub> is -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl;

25 R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> are each independently selected from: hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkanoyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylcarbonyl, carboxamide and sulfonamide; or

R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, are a 3-, 4-, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which can have at least one further heteroatom selected from: nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is saturated,

- partially unsaturated or unsaturated and either unsubstituted or substituted by at least one substituent selected from: halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkanoyl, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl and -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl;
- R<sub>11</sub> is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkanoyl, or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl; and R<sub>13</sub> is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  —alkyl.
- 15 5. A compound of the general formula (Ig), or a stereoisomer, optical isomer, pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof

$$R_4$$
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_6$ 
 $R_6$ 

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wherein

 $R_1$  is phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl, or is a heterocycle, which is a saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic ring containing 5 or 6 ring atoms of which 1, 2 or 3 are identical or different heteroatoms selected from: nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur and phosphorus, and where the heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxycarbonyl and - $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl;

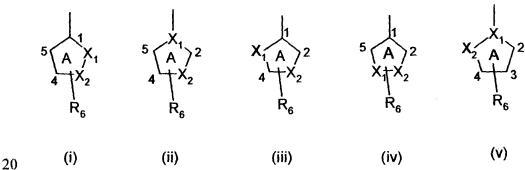
R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 5 or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen, C1-C4-alkyl, C1-C4alkoxy, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C4alkoxycarbonyl and -C1-C4-alkylenehydroxyl, OR11, halogen, cyano, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$  or  $SR_{11}$ ;

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R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are each independently selected from: hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkoxyl, halogen,  $OR_{11}$ ,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylcarbonyloxy,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SO_2NR_9R_{10}$ , carboxyl, cyano and nitro;

#### Z is O or S; 15

A is a 5-membered saturated ring represented by any one of the general structures (i) to (v);



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wherein X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> are each independently selected from: a carbon atom and a heteroatom selected from: oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen, provided that at least one of X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> is a heteroatom, and wherein the nitrogen atom is at least monosubstituted by R<sub>13</sub>, wherein R<sub>13</sub> is selected from: hydrogen, unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, or carboxyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkenyl, hydroxyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylcarbonyl, toluenesulfonyl, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, -CO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>R<sub>14</sub> cyano, phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkoxy, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl and -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl;

 $R_6$  is hydrogen,  $C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-}alkyl$ ,  $-C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-}alkanoyl$ , hydroxyl,  $C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-}alkoxyl$ ,  $-C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-}alkoxyl$ ,  $-C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-}alkyleneOR_{11}$ ,  $-C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-}alkylenehalo}$ ,  $-C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-}alkyleneNR_9R_{10}$ ,  $C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-}alkyleneC(O)OR_9$ , phenoxy,  $-NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{12}$ ,  $S(O)_nR_{12}$ ,  $-C(O)R_{12}$  or  $-C(S)R_{12}$ ;

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 $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  are each independently selected from: hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylcarbonyl, carboxamide and sulfonamide; or

R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3-, 4-, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which can have at least one further heteroatom selected from: nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic and either unsubstituted or substituted by at least one substituent selected from: halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkanoyl, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl and -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl;

R<sub>11</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkanoyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl;

25 R<sub>12</sub> is hydrogen, halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, -NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, or OR<sub>9</sub>;

 $R_{14} \text{ is hydrogen, } C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-alkyl, hydroxyl, -}NR_9R_{10}, \text{halogen, -}SH, \text{ or-}S\text{-}C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-alkyl; }$ 

m is an integer of 0 to 6; and

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n is an integer of 1 or 2.

6. A compound of the general formula (Ig) as claimed in claim 5, wherein  $X_1$  is carbon and  $X_2$  is nitrogen substituted by  $R_{13}$ , wherein  $R_{13}$  is as defined.

5 7. A compound of general formula (Ih), or a stereoisomer, optical isomer, pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R_4 & O & R_2 \\
R_5 & O & R_1 \\
\hline
A & R_6 \\
\hline
(Ih)
\end{array}$$

## 10 wherein

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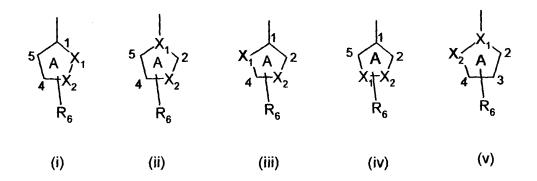
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 $R_1$  is phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxycarbonyl and - $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl, or is a heterocycle, which is a saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic ring containing 6 ring atoms of which 1, 2 or 3 are identical or different heteroatoms selected from: nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, and where the heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxycarbonyl and - $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl;

## R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are hydrogen;

 $R_3$  and  $R_5$  are each independently selected from: hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxyl and  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylcarbonyloxy;

5 A is a 5-membered saturated ring represented by any one of the general structures (i) to (v);



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wherein  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are each independently selected from: a carbon atom and a heteroatom selected from: oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen, provided that at least one of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  is a heteroatom, and wherein the nitrogen atom is at least monosubstituted by  $R_{13}$ , wherein  $R_{13}$  is selected from: hydrogen, unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, or carboxyl,  $C_2$ - $C_6$ -alkenyl, hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylcarbonyl, toluenesulfonyl, cyano,  $SO_2R_{10}$ ,  $-CO(CH_2)_mR_{14}$  and phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl;

 $R_6$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkanoyl, hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxyl,  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyleneOR<sub>11</sub>,  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyleneHalo,  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyleneNR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>,  $-C_1$ - $-C_4$ -alkyleneC(O)OR<sub>9</sub>, phenoxy,  $-NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{12}$ ,  $S(O)_nR_{12}$ ,  $-C(O)R_{12}$  or -C(S)  $R_{12}$ ;

 $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  are each independently selected from: hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylcarbonyl, carboxamide and sulfonamide; or

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 $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$ , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3-, 4-, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which can have at least one further

heteroatom selected from: nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic, and either unsubstituted or substituted by at least one substituent selected from: halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkanoyl, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl and -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl;

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 $R_{11}$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkanoyl or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl;

R<sub>12</sub> is hydrogen, halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, - NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, or OR<sub>9</sub>;

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R<sub>14</sub> is hydrogen C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, hydroxyl, - NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, halogen, -SH, or-S- C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl;

m is an integer of 0 to 6; and

n is an integer of 1 or 2.

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8. A compound of general formula (li), or a stereoisomer, optical isomer, pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof

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wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl and -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl, or is a heterocycle, which is a saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic ring containing 6 ring atoms of which 1, 2 or 3 are identical or different

heteroatoms selected from: nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, and where the heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl and -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl;

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# R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are hydrogen;

 $R_3$  and  $R_5$  are each independently selected from: hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxyl and  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylcarbonyloxy;

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A is a 5-membered saturated ring represented by any one of the general structures (i) to (iv);

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wherein  $X_1$  is either a carbon atom or a heteroatom selected from: oxygen, sulphur, and nitrogen, except that in structures (ii) and (iv)  $X_1$  is either a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom, and wherein  $R_{13}$  is selected from: hydrogen, unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, or carboxyl,  $C_2$ - $C_6$ -alkenyl, hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylcarbonyl, toluenesulfonyl, cyano,  $SO_2R_{10}$ ,  $-CO(CH_2)_mR_{14}$  and phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy, nitro,  $NR_9R_{10}$ ,  $SR_{11}$ , trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl and  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylenehydroxyl;

- 5  $R_6$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkanoyl, hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxyl,  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyleneOR<sub>11</sub>,  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyleneHalo,  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyleneNR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>,  $-C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyleneC(O)OR<sub>9</sub>, phenoxy  $-NR_9R_{10}$   $SR_{12}$ ,  $S(O)_nR_{12}$ ,  $-C(O)R_{12}$  or  $-C(S)R_{12}$ ;
- $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  are each independently selected from: hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxycarbonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylcarbonyl, carboxamide and sulfonamide; or

R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3-, 4-, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which can have at least one further heteroatom selected from: nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic and either unsubstituted or substituted by at least one substituent selected from: halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkanoyl, nitro, NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, SR<sub>11</sub>, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl and -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl;

R<sub>11</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkanoyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl;

 $R_{12}$  is hydrogen, halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl, -NR<sub>9</sub> $R_{10}$ , or OR<sub>9</sub>;

R<sub>14</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, hydroxyl, -NR<sub>9</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, halogen, -SH, or-S- C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl;

m is an integer of 0 to 6; and

n is an integer of 1 or 2.

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9. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  is phenyl or pyridinyl, substituted by 1, 2 or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen and nitro,  $R_2$  and  $R_4$  are hydrogen,  $R_3$  and  $R_5$  are hydroxyl, A is a saturated 5-membered ring represented by any one of the general structures (i) to (v), wherein  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_{13}$  are as defined.

5 10. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is phenyl or pyridinyl, substituted by 1, 2 or 3 identical or different substituents selected from: halogen and nitro, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are hydrogen, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are hydroxyl, A is a saturated 5-membered ring represented by any one of the general structures (i) to (v), wherein X<sub>1</sub> is carbon, X<sub>2</sub> is nitrogen, R<sub>6</sub> is -C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenehydroxyl, and R<sub>13</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl.

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- 11. A compound of the general formula (Ig) as claimed in claim 5, which is: (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
- (+)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one:
- (+)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
- (-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
- 20 (-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-
- 25 pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(4-Bromo-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(4-Bromo-phenyl)-5-hydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-7-methoxy-chromen-4-one;
- (+)-trans-2-(4-Bromo-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(3-Chloro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(3-Chloro-phenyl)-5-hydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-
- 35 yl)-7-methoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(3-Chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;

- 5 (+)-trans-8-(2-Hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-(2-iodo-phenyl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-5,7-Dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-(2-iodo-phenyl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Fluoro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-
- 10 dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Fluoro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
- (+)-trans-2-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2,6-Difluoro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2,6-Difluoro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-
- 20 pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-4-[8-(2-Hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-benzonitrile;
  - (+/-)-trans-4-[5,7-Dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-benzonitrile;
- 25 (+)-trans-4-[8-(2-Hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-benzonitrile;
  - (+)-trans-4-[5,7-Dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-benzonitrile;
  - (+/-)-trans-8-(2-Hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-2-(4-
- 30 trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-5,7-Dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-8-(2-Hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-chromen-4-one;
- 35 (+)-trans-5,7-Dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-chromen-4-one;

- 5 (-)-trans-8-(2-Hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (-)-trans-5,7-Dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-8-(2-Hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-chromen-4-one:
- (+)-trans-5,7-Dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-phenyl-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-8-(2-Hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-2-thiophen-2-yl-chromen-4-one;
- (+)-trans-5,7-Dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-thiophen-2-yl-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-4-[5,7-Dihydroxy-8-(2-Hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-3-methyl-benzonitrile;
- (+)-trans-4-[8-(2-Hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-4-oxo-4H-20 chromen-2-yl]-3-methyl-benzonitrile;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-5-methoxy-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin 3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-5-methoxy-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
- 25 (+)-*trans*-2-(2-Bromo-5-methoxy-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-5-methoxy-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-5-hydroxy-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-
- 30 methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;

- (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-5-hydroxy-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
- (+/-)-trans-2-[(3,5-Bis-trifluoromethyl)-phenyl]-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
- 35 (+/-)-trans-2-[(3,5-Bis-trifluoromethyl)-phenyl]-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;

- 5 (+)-*trans*-2-(2-Chloro-5-methyl-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-5-methyl-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-5-nitro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-
- 10 5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-5-nitro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dihydroxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
- (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-5-nitrophenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dihydroxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-
- 20 pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-8-(2-Hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-4H-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-5,7-Dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-chromen-4-one;
- 25 (+/-)-trans-2-(4-Aminophenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-8-(2-Hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-2-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-5,7-Dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-(2-
- 30 hydroxy-phenyl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-3-Chloro-4-[8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-benzonitrile;
  - (+)-trans-3-Chloro-4-[5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-benzonitrile;
- 35 (+)-trans-2-(4-Bromo-2-chloro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;

- 5 (+)-trans-2-(4-Bromo-2-chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-4-dimethylamino-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-4-methylamino-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxy
- methyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-4-methoxy-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-4-hydroxy-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
- 15 (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-5-fluoro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-5-fluoro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-5-methoxy-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-
- 20 3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-5-hydroxy-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-5-methoxy-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
- 25 (+/-)-trans-8-(2-Azidomethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-(2-chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-8-(2-Aminomethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-(2-chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-8-(2-Aminomethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-(2-chloro-phenyl)-5,7-
- 30 dihydroxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-3-{[2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dimethoxy-4-oxo-4H-chromen-8-yl]-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-2-yl}-acetonitrile;
  - (+/-)-trans-{3-[2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-4-oxo-4H-chromen-8-yl]-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-2-yl}-acetonitrile;
- 35 (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-8-(2-imidazol-1-ylmethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;

- 5 (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-imidazol-1-ylmethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-[2-Chloro-phenyl-8-(2-mercaptomethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)]-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-mercaptomethyl-1-methyl-
- 10 pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans- Acetic acid 3-[2-(2-chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dimethoxy-4-oxo-4H-chromen-8-yl]-1-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl ester;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-8-[2-hydroxymethyl-1-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-pyrrolidin-3-yl]-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
- (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-[2-hydroxymethyl-1-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-pyrrolidin-3-yl]-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-Acetic acid-3-[2-(2-chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dimethoxy-4-oxo-4H-chromen-8-yl]-1-propyl-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl ester;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-propyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-
- 20 dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-propyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-4-nitro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
- 25 (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-4-nitro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-3-Chloro-4-[5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-benzoic acid;
  - (+/-)-trans-3-Bromo-4-[5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-
- 30 4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-benzoic acid;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-4-fluoro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(4-Amino-2-chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
- 35 (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-4-fluoro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;

- 5 (+/-)-trans-2-(4-Amino-2-bromo-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-4-Chloro-3-[5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-4-oxo-4H- chromen-2-yl]-benzoic acid;
  - (+/-)-trans-4-Bromo-3-[5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-
- 10 4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-benzoic acid;
  - (+/-)-trans-4-Bromo-3-[5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
  - (+/-)-trans-4-Chloro-3-[5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
- 15 (+/-)-trans-3-Chloro-4-[5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
  - (+/-)-trans-3-Bromo-4-[5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-4-oxo-4H-chromen-2-yl]-N-hydroxy-benzamide; or
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2,4-Difluoro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-
- 20 pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-*trans*-2-(2-Chloro-3-fluoro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-3-fluoro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
- 25 (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-3-fluoro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-3-fluoro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-5-fluoro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-
- 30 yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-5-fluoro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-5-iodo-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
- 35 (+)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-5-iodo-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;

- 5 (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-5-chloro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-5-chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+/-)-trans-2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-1-oxy-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-4-nitro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans- 2-(2-Bromo-4-nitro-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
- (+)-trans-2-(4-Amino-2-bromo-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(4-Amino-2-bromo-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
  - (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-4-methoxy-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-
- 20 yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one;

- (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-4-methoxy-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
- (+)-trans-2-(2-Bromo-4-hydroxy-phenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one;
- 25 (+)-trans -Acetic acid 8-(2-acetoxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5-hydroxy-2-(4-nitro-phenyl)-4-oxo-4H-chromen-7-yl ester;
  - (+)-*trans*-2-(2,4-Dichloro-5-fluoro-phenyl)-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1- methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-5,7-dimethoxy-chromen-4-one; or
- (+)-trans-2-(2,4-Dichloro-5-fluoro-phenyl-5,7-dihydroxy-8-(2-hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl)-chromen-4-one.
  - 12. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of general formula (Ic) as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5 13. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of general formula (Ic) as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one further pharmaceutically active compound, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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- 14. A method of inhibiting cyclin-dependent kinases, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula (Ic) as claimed in claim 1.
- 15. A method for the treatment or prevention of disorders associated with excessive cell proliferation in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 12.
- 16. A method for the treatment or prevention of disorders associated with excessive cell proliferation in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of the formula (Ic) as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 17. A method for the treatment or prevention of disorders associated with excessive cell proliferation in a mammal, comprising administering either sequentially or simultaneously to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of the formula (Ic) as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one other pharmaceutically active compound.
- 30 18. A method for the treatment or prevention of disorders associated with dedifferentiation of a differentiated cell population in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of the formula (Ic) as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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19. A method for the treatment or prevention of cancer in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of the

- 5 compound of the formula (Ic) as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
  - 20. A process for the preparation of a compound of general formula (Ic), as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

$$R_4$$
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_6$ 
(Ic)

wherein

 $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$  and A are as defined, which process comprises reacting a compound of formula (XA):

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or a compound of formula (XIIA):

wherein in each case  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$  and A are as defined, with an organic or inorganic base, subsequently adding an acid to the reaction mixture capable of effecting cyclization, then adding an organic or inorganic base, and, if appropriate, converting the compound of formula (Ic) into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

21. A process according to claim 20, wherein the compound of formula (XIIA) is obtained by reacting a compound of formula (XIA)

XIA

wherein  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$  and A are as defined above, with a carboxylic acid ester, an acid halide, or an activated ester in the presence of an organic or inorganic base in organic or inorganic solvent.

22. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (XIIIA) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

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$$R_4$$
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_1$ 
 $R_1$ 
 $R_2$ 
 $R_1$ 
 $R_2$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_1$ 
 $R_1$ 
 $R_1$ 
 $R_1$ 

wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$  and  $R_{13}$  are as defined in claim 1, comprising reacting a compound of formula (VIIA)

VII A

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- wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are as defined in claim 1, with a reagent suitable to effect replacement of the –OH group on the piperidino ring by a leaving group, in the presence of an organic or inorganic base, followed by adding a suitable organic base in the presence of a suitable organic solvent to effect contraction of the piperidino ring, and, if appropriate, converting the resultant compound of formula (XIII) into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.
  - 23. A process for the resolution of a compound of general formula (VIII A) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

wherein  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$  and A are as defined in claim 1, which process comprises reacting the racemic compound(VIIIA) with a chiral auxiliary in the presence of a solvent, crystallising out the required diastereomeric salt and subsequently treating with a base to obtain the desired enantiomer of compound of formula (VIII A).